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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

December 13, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: State Board of Education Adopts the World-Class Instructional Design and
Assessment Standards and Assessments for English Learners

In July 2012, the U.S. Department of Education approved Michigan's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request. A requirement of this request was for Michigan to adopt a set of English language proficiency (ELP) standards for English learners (EL), as well as an ELP assessment linked to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

A team from the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability (BAA) and the Office of Field Services (OFS) investigated options for new ELP standards and assessment adoption and reviewed the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language Development (ELD) Standards, along with other optional standards. The results of such reviews were shared with a statewide stakeholder group, which unanimously recommended the WIDA ELD standards.

At the October 2012 State Board of Education (SBE) meeting the SBE was asked to approve adoption of the WIDA ELD Standards as a replacement for the current Michigan English Language Proficiency Standards. The SBE unanimously approved the adoption of WIDA ELD standards at its November 2012 meeting.

The Michigan Department of Education intends to transition from the current ELP standards to the WIDA ELD standards throughout the 2012-13 school year, with full implementation by fall 2013. The OFS and BAA team has developed a comprehensive professional development plan to ensure sound implementation, which will be communicated statewide in the upcoming months. The WIDA standards can be found at <http://wida.us/get.aspx?id=540>. Please direct questions related to training on the standards to Shereen Tabrizi, Ph.D., Manager of the Special Populations Unit at TabriziS@michigan.gov. Questions related to the WIDA ELD assessments should be directed to Jennifer Paul, EL Assessment Consultant, at paulj@michigan.gov.

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